

Claims

- [00024] 1. A device for cleaning a landscape surface, comprising
- [00025] a. a conduit system with an intake portion and an outlet portion in fluid communication with each other; the outlet portion configured for attachment to a vacuum source and the intake portion having a distal end with an intake opening through which landscape material can be drawn into the intake portion from the surface of the landscape
- [00026] b. the conduit system being configured to (i) enable the intake portion to be held in a downward orientation toward the surface of the landscape with the intake opening disposed against the surface of the landscape, (ii) allow dirt and debris to be drawn into the intake portion and transmitted through the outlet portion while retarding transmission of landscape rock from the intake portion through the outlet portion, and (iii) provide a pressure state within the intake portion such that when the intake portion is lifted off the surface of the landscape, the landscape rock in the intake portion will be deposited on the surface of the landscape.
- [00027] 2. A device as defined in claim 1, wherein the intake portion extends at a predetermined angle to at least part of the outlet portion.
- [00028] 3. A device as set forth in claim 2, wherein the angle between the intake portion and the part of the outlet portion is not more than 135 degrees.
- [00029] 4. A device as defined in claim 2, wherein the angle between the intake portion and the part of the outlet portion is from 75 to 135 degrees.
- [00030] 5. A device as defined in claim 2, wherein the angle between the intake portion and the part of the outlet portion is from 90 to 105 degrees.
- [00031] 6. A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the angle between the intake and outlet portions is about 90 degrees.
- [00032] 7. A device as set forth in claim 2, wherein the cleaning device is configured such that the intake portion can be lifted vertically with respect to the landscape surface.

- [00033] 8. A device as set forth in claim 2, wherein the outlet portion includes a conduit that has a smaller inner diameter than the inner diameter of the intake portion.
- [00034] 9. A device as set forth in claim 8, wherein the intake portion is coupled to a head assembly, and the outlet portion is formed in one piece with the head assembly.
- [00035] 10. A device as set forth in claim 9, wherein the outlet portion comprises an elbow shaped conduit formed in one piece with the head assembly.
- [00036] 11. A device as set forth in claim 10 further including at least one handle formed in one piece with the head assembly.
- [00037] 12. A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outlet portion includes a conduit that has a smaller inner diameter than the inner diameter of the intake portion.
- [00038] 13. A method for cleaning a landscape surface of dirt and debris while enabling landscape rock to remain a part of the landscape surface comprising the steps of (a) providing a cleaning device configured for attachment to a vacuum source, the device having a conduit system with an intake portion and an outlet portion in fluid communication with each other, the intake portion having a distal end with an intake opening through which landscape material can be drawn into the intake portion, the intake and outlet portions configured to enable the intake portion to be held in a downward orientation with the opening disposed closely on top of the landscape surface so that the vacuum in the intake portion draws material from the landscape surface into the intake portion, (b) attaching the outlet portion to a vacuum source, providing a vacuum in the outlet portion and holding the cleaning device with the intake portion extending downward to the landscape surface so that the opening contacts the landscape surface, and maintaining the intake portion in the downward orientation with the opening in contact with the landscape surface for a period sufficient to draw dirt and/or debris from the landscape surface into the intake portion, and (c) lifting the intake portion off the landscape

surface landscape in a manner that allows the pressure state in the conduit system to cause landscape rock in the intake portion to be redeposited in situ on the landscape surface.

[00039] 14. A method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the intake portion is lifted vertically off the landscape surface.

[00040] 15. A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the intake portion is disposed at a predetermined angle to at least part of the outlet portion, and the outlet portion comprises a conduit with an inner diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter of the intake portion.

[00041] 16. A method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the intake portion is disposed at a predetermined angle to at least part of the outlet portion, and the outlet portion comprises a conduit with an inner diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter of the intake portion.